

Odual language

Odual (Onu Odual) is a poorly studied Central Delta language spoken by the Odual community in the Abua–Odual Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria.

Distribution

The Adibaam group comprises Adada, Emelego, Ogboloma and Okolomade; the Arughunya group comprises Ekunuga, Anyu, Emaarikpoko, Obedum and Odau (cf. Gardner et al. 1974 and Comson 1987).

Comson (1987: viii), citing the Rivers State of Nigeria Ministry of Economic Development and planning (1983), puts the population of Odual at 30,028.

The Odual clan is bounded in the east by the Abua villages of Ogbema, Arukwo, Ogbogolo, in the west by Oloibiri, Amurukeni in Ogbia (in Bayelsa State of Nigeria), in the north by Oruma, Ibelebiri, Kolo (also in Ogbia), and in the south by Nembe town of Oluasiri, Bassambiri, Ekpoma, Ogbolomabiri (also in Bayelsa State of Nigeria), etc. (Comson 1987:vii).

Odual is not spoken by all the communities that share boundary with the Odual clan. The communities that do not speak Odual are those that belong to the Abureni group. These communities speak Abureni, a Delta Cross language that is coordinate with Odual. In addition to Odual, some speakers in the Adibaam group also understand and speak Abuan, Abureni, Nembe, Kalabari and Ogbia (Kolo Creek). Some speakers in the Arughunya group also understand and speak Ogbia, Nembe and Kalabari. Speakers of the Odual language call themselves *Ikpetemonu Odual*, meaning "speakers of the Odual language". A speaker of this language is called *Okpetemonu Odual*.

Odual is coordinate with other Central Delta languages such as Abuan, Abureni, Obulom, Ogbia, Ogbogolo and Ogbronuagum (Faraclas 1989:381). These languages with which Odual is coordinate are also spoken in Rivers State of Nigeria, except Ogbia, which is spoken in Bayelsa State of Nigeria. There is a dearth of scholarly linguistic literature on these languages in comparison with languages such as Degema, Kalabari, Obolo and Izon. The major linguistic studies on Odual are Comson (1987), Madumere (2006) and Kari (2009). Other materials on Odual include Gardner et al. (1974), Gardner (1975) and A history of Iduma From Ancient Times (2016) Kari (2007a, 2007b).

References

1. Odual (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/odu/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Odual" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/odua1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

Odual	
Native to	Nigeria
Region	Rivers State
Ethnicity	Odual
Native speakers	(18,000 cited 1989) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cross River<ul style="list-style-type: none">Central Delta<ul style="list-style-type: none">Abua–Odual<ul style="list-style-type: none">Odual</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	odu
Glottolog	odua1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/odua1238) ^[2]

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